STATEMENTS BY MINISTER

ग्रामीण विकास मंत्री (श्री रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह) : महोदय, मैं आपकी अनुमति से निम्नलिखित वक्तव्य सभा पटल पर रखता हूं:-

I. राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी अधिनियम (एन0आर0ई0जी0ए) के अधीन जिलों की संख्या बढ़ाया जाना ;

II. विभाग संबंधित ग्रामीण विकास संबंधी संसदीय स्थायी समिति के उन्नीसवें प्रतिवेदन में अन्तर्विष्ट सिफारिशों के कार्यान्वयन की स्थिति; और

III. विभाग-संबंधित ग्रामीण विकास संबंधी संसदीय स्थायी समिति के बीसवें प्रतिवेदन में अन्तर्विष्ट सिफारिशों के कार्यान्वयन की स्थिति ।

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—(Contd.)

SHRI ABDUL VVAHAB PEEVEE (Kerala): Sir, at the outset, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address moved by Hon. Member, Dr. Karan Singh. I stand up in support of the Motion.

Sir, the UPA Government assumed office at a crucial juncture. The tenure of the NDA rule that preceded the present regime witnessed large-scale attacks on the rights of minorities and their institutions undermining our ethos and the very secular values enshrined in our Constitution. The State managed programme in the State of Gujarat not only scarred the minds of minorities and the right thinking citizens of the country but also it was a blot on the secular credentials of our great nation. The members of the minority communities were living under constant threat and the situation continues to be grave in some States.

The minorities in this country look up to the present Government with much expectation and confidence. And, I am sure, the present Government's steps will instil confidence among these sections. But, at the same time, I express my concern and apprehension that there are some forces which are active in upsetting our secular and democratic foundation. The recent happenings in various parts of our country, particularly in Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh are a cause for worry, and, I urge upon the Government to seriously consider